

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PRS-01 PA-04

USIA-15 NEA-11 DRC-01 /202 W
----- 045940

P R 151011Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 31

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS TOKYO 2141

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, JA, US

SUBJECT: ENERGY: JAPANESE PRESS REACTION TO WASHINGTON ENERGY
CONFERENCE

1. JAPANESE PRESS COVERAGE OF WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE FOCUSED ON

FONMIN'S COMMENTS, HIGHLIGHTING OHIRA STATEMENT THAT EVEN U.S. HAD NOT
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COMPLETELY REJECTED BILATERAL OIL TRANSACTIONS. OHIRA SAID THAT HIS FEARS THAT CONFERENCE WOULD PROVE TO BE CONFRONTATION WITH PRODUCERS HAD

PROVEN TO BE IMAGINARY, AND SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH CONFERENCE DISCUSSION ON HOW TO TACKLE HUGE ENERGY PROBLEM. IF ARRANGEMENTS TO HANDLE THE ENERGY PROBLEM RESULT, OHIRA SAID, THEN CONFERENCE MUST BE REGARDED TENTATIVELY AS SUCCESS. ACCORDING PRESS, OHIRA STRESSED POINT THAT WHETHER IT BE IN CURRENCY, TRADE OR IN ENERGY, IT WILL SPELL TROUBLE FOR JAPAN IF EACH NATION ACTS AUTONOMOUSLY. EVEN THOUGH WE MAY SUFFER, OHIRA SAID, WE MUST FLY THE FLAG OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND WE MUST FLY IT OFTEN.

2. JAPANESE EDITORIALS WERE DIVIDED IN THEIR REACTION TO CONFERENCE. ON POSITIVE SIDE, ASAHI POINTED OUT THAT *LL OF THE CONFERENCE PARTICI PANTS, EVEN FRANCE, HAD RECOGNIZED NECESSITY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SOLVING PRESENT CRISIS. EDITORIAL ADDED THAT IT WAS WISE THAT CONFERENCE HAD NOT INDICATED INTENTION TO FORCE PRODUCERS TO REDUCE PRICES. YOMIURI EDITORIAL EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE DECISION TO ESTABLISH A COORDINATING GROUP WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED QUICKLY IN ORDER TO RESTORE ORDER TO INTERNATIONAL OIL TRANSACTIONS. PAPER SAID THAT TIME IS RIPE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF RULES CONCERNING STABILIZATION OF OIL PRICES, AND NOTED THAT EVEN SAUDIS RECOGNIZED NEED TO CONTROL RISE OF OIL PRICES.

3. OTHER PAPERS EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH RESULTS OF CONFERENCE AND CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS OF LACK OF INTERNATIONAL CONCENSUS. MAINICHI EDITORIAL SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR JAPAN TO BE OPTIMISTIC REGARDING FUTURE OF OIL PROBLEM IN VIEW OF REACTION SHOWN BY PRODUCERS TO JOINT COMMUNIQUE, BUT HOPED THAT OIL PRODUCERS WOULD NOT BE UNFAIRLY SUSPICIOUS OF CONFERENCE RESULTS. SANKEI TOOK SIMILAR LINE SAYING FRENCH HAD LARGELY REFLECTED VIEWS OF PRODUCERS A CONFERENCE. REJECTION OF FRENCH POINT OF VIEW MADE IT VERY DOUBTFUL WETHER OIL PRODUCERS WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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AGREE TO MEET WITH CONSUMERS IN FUTURE. TOKYO SHIMBUN ALSO SAID CONFERENCE HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO OVERCOME PRESENT OIL CRISIS. EDITORIAL ADDED THAT CONFERENCE HAD INDICATED DANGER OF SERIOUS CRACK IN UNITY OF WESTERN NATIONS, AND INDICATED JAPAN WOULD HAVE IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN U.S. AND FRANCE. SHOESMITH

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